#4: Crushed By – Amputation – Inspection #317619187

A 24 year old male employee on second shift was on "clean up" of the sawmill from the days production. As part of the job task, the employee was instructed to scoop sawdust up and throw it onto the "long belt" for transfer out to the dust trailer. The "long belt" started to slip due to ice buildup. The gang saw used at the mill was equipped with a water spray system that cooled the blades while it was in operation. The shaker style conveyor located at the end of the "long belt" caught the water from the gang saw and carried it out to the pond area. The shaker conveyor was not very efficient in carrying this water and spillage was a common occurrence in the bottom area of the mill. The victim was throwing salt onto the "long belt" conveyor to melt ice when his right arm became hung in the drive wheel for the conveyor causing his arm to be amputated at the elbow. The victim was life flight to the hospital and underwent surgery to reattach his lower right arm but the victim passed away due to his injuries.

Citation(s) as Originally Issued

A complete inspection was conducted at the accident scene. Some of the items cited may not directly relate to the fatality.

Citation 1

29 CFR 1910.22(a)(2)	Floors of workrooms were not maintained in a dry condition.
29 CFR 1910.147(f)(3)(ii)(D)	A personal lockout or tagout device(s) was not affixed o the group lockout device, group lockout or comparable mechanism when he or she began work (and removed when work stops) on the machine or equipment serviced and/or maintained.
29 CFR 1910.212(a)(1)	Machine guarding was not provided to protect operator(s) and other employees from hazard(s) created by moving parts.
29 CFR 1910.265(c)(18)(i)	Conveyor belts must be routinely inspected and involved in an adequate maintenance program to insure that component parts are kept in good working order and all safety features are retained.
29 CFR 1910.265(c)(21)(ii)(B)	Hog feed chutes were not provided with suitable and approved baffles which would minimize material from being thrown from the mill.

Citation 2

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1)	Employees were not provided information and training on
	hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their
	initial assignment and whenever a new hazard was introduced
	into their work area.

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(photo 1) (photo 2)

Photo 1 - guard missing on the drive wheel and ice buildup.

Photo 2 - new guard on the drive wheel.